

Israeli Peace Aims Linked To 6 Vital Pieces of Land

By SETH S. KING

As the United Nations General Assembly continues debate on the Middle East, the gains Israel expects to make from her defeat of the military forces of three Arab states have come into sharper focus.

Israel's final price for withdrawal from the territory she has captured is being carefully guarded until the real bargaining begins. But it is now clear that the main thrust of her diplomacy is aimed not at the territory but at agreement with the Arabs, reached without third-party intervention.

With the exception of the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, already absorbed into the Israeli sector, and possibly a strip of western Jordan, the Israelis would not have to annex much of the territory captured from the United Arab Republic, Jordan and Syria to satisfy their aim for greater security and peace with their neighbors.

"A piece of paper, signed by the Arab country and us, would be enough to satisfy us," Gideon Hausner, former Attorney General of Israel and now a member of her United Nations delegation, said Wednesday. "Once we are recognized, and we agree on what should happen in this territory, there is no need for a police force from the U.N. or anybody else."

Mr. Hausner, the prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann, said he believed that the Sinai Peninsula, with the exception of Sharm el Sheikh, could be turned back to Egypt as long as the Egyptians signed an agreement not to re-establish their military bases in the largely uninhabited desert area.

The Israelis, in their public

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by the United Nations with security forces provided by the Israelis.

A similar internationalization would be acceptable to Israel, the observers believe, with its future eventually settled by a plebiscite. If this could not be arranged, the strip could be annexed and the refugees resettled elsewhere, perhaps in the area of Jordan west of the Jordan River.

Israel has never publicly expressed any desire or need to hold the Sinai Peninsula, the third area for bargaining. If the Egyptians were willing to sign an agreement to demilitarize the Sinai areas, Israel could withdraw and the state of belligerency with Egypt would be ended.

Presumably this would also end the Egyptians' contention that they can bar Israeli ships from the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba.

As for Sharm el Sheikh, the barren tip of the Sinai Peninsula that dominates the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel is expected to insist either on keeping her military garrison there or on turning the fortress over to a neutral party that would guarantee free passage for all ships.

Million Arabs Involved

By holding the west-bank area of Jordan, Israel could greatly enhance her security. But this area, the fifth point of contention, offers limited resources and contains nearly a million Arabs.

Israel could be expected to withdraw her troops if the area was made an autonomous Arab region attached to Israel or if

King Hussein of Jordan signed a peace treaty.

Under either arrangement, it would be possible to link the Israeli port of Haifa with the west-bank region, giving it access to the Mediterranean.

Failing this, the Israelis are expected to hold at least the western port of this region, broadening the narrow central neck enough to put their cities out of artillery range.

On the sixth point, the narrow strip of Syria occupied by Israeli troops, the Israelis are adamant. They have declared that they will never let the Syrians put their guns back there.

Israel would probably withdraw if Syria signed an agreement demilitarizing the zone and ruling out diversion of the headwaters of the Jordan, which flow through one tip of it.

"When you talk peace, there are things you give and things you keep," Mr. Hausner said during a talk with reporters Wednesday when he and other members of the Israeli delegation were visiting Mayor Lindsay at Gracie Mansion.

"Israel has room, for the first time, to deal with many of the problems that have kept peace away from the Middle East," he declared.

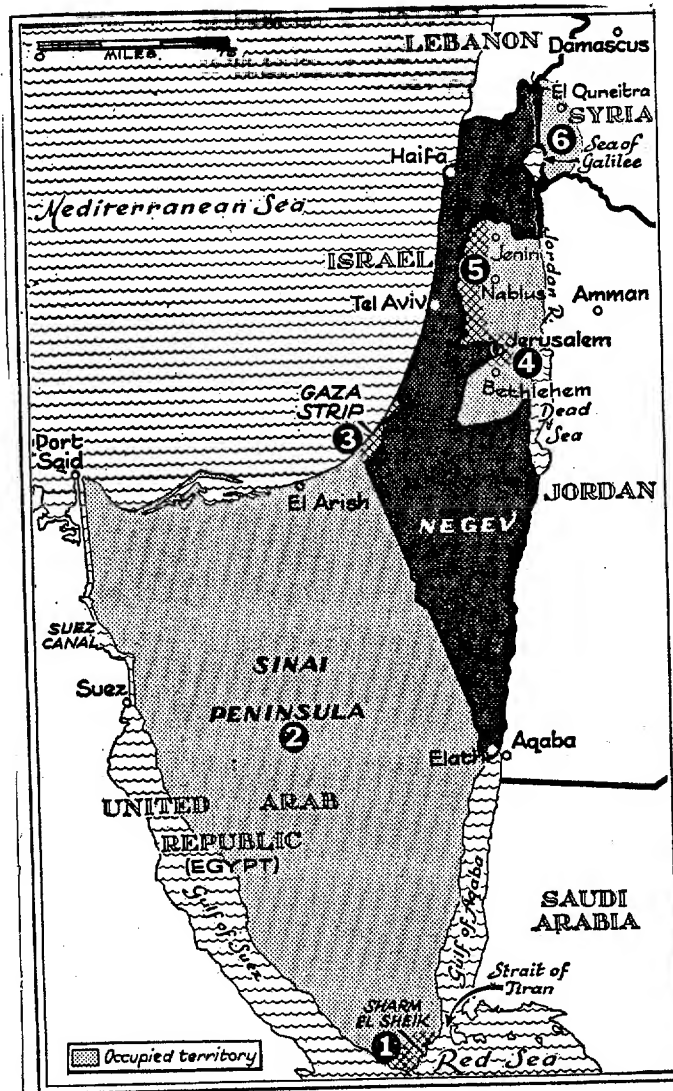
Hint of a Concession

From the moment they captured the Jordanian section of the city June 7, the Israelis have insisted that Jerusalem would remain a unified city. But observers believe it would be possible to draw up an agreement guaranteeing international control over the religious sites provided the Arabs signed it and political control of the areas remained with Israel.

The second area, the Gaza strip, poses a difficult problem. Israel's security against Egyptian attack would be enhanced if she annexed the strip an area about the size of Manhattan.

Economically it is a liability however. Most of its 430,000 Arab inhabitants are refugees who fled during the 1948 fighting. Egypt had administrative control over the strip, but did not grant citizenship to any of its residents.

After the fighting of 1956, the Israelis suggested unsuccessfully, that Gaza be administered



The New York Times June 30, 1967
OBJECTS OF ISRAELI DIPLOMACY: (1) Sharm el Sheikh, (2) Sinai Peninsula, (3) Gaza Strip, (4) Jerusalem (5) part of Jordan's west bank and (6) the Syrian heights

The Liberty Got Order Too Late

Message to Move Misrouted, Seen After Attack Began

By George C. Wilson
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Navy's most sophisticated electronic spy ship, The Liberty, failed to get a message to move farther out to sea the day she was attacked by Israeli planes and torpedo boats.

This ironic twist to the disaster that killed 34 men and wounded 75 others came to light yesterday when the Pentagon released a report on the Liberty.

At the same time, the Pentagon said Israel "had ample opportunity" to identify the ship before the "unprovoked" attack.

Order Sent 'Early'

The Pentagon said the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington had sent the order to the Liberty "early" on June 8—the day of the attack. "But," said the report, "the messages were misrouted, delayed and not received until after the attack."

Whether extra distance between the ship and the Gaza Strip battle zone would have spared the Liberty will remain another unanswered question about the ship and its mission. But presumably the military chiefs became anxious over the Liberty being 15½ miles off the Egyptian coast and decided to order the ship a safer distance from the fighting.

The Pentagon report did not make any official charges against Israel for attacking the ship while it was in international waters. But the report did stress that the ship was clearly marked and its position right to be where she was.

No Explanation

No explanation was given why the Joint Chiefs sent the orders to the Liberty nor why the communications went awry between Washington and a ship loaded down with electronic gear. Pentagon officials also declined to give the exact time the move out order was sent.

Israeli planes started attacking the Liberty about 8 a.m. (EDT) June 8. Torpedo boats joined in 24 minutes later, according to the ship's skipper.

The stricken Liberty made it back to Malta on June 14 despite a bomb and 821 rocket and machine gun hits above deck and a torpedo hole 30 feet across below the waterline.

The 25 men who died below decks from the torpedo blast were killed instantly, according to the Pentagon report,

and did not die of drowning or suffocation.

The public report on the Liberty disaster comprises a summary of the Navy Court of Inquiry findings plus a partial text of the testimony.

The Navy and the Defense Department prepared the summary, according to Pentagon spokesman, and it was reviewed by the White House and State Department. State is believed to have shown the material to Israeli officials before yesterday's public release.

Other Points Listed

Besides the Joint Chiefs order, here are other major points in the Pentagon report on the Liberty disaster:

Culpability. "It was not the responsibility of the court to rule on the culpability of the attackers and no evidence was heard from the attacking nation."

Identification. "Israeli armed forces had ample opportunity to identify Liberty correctly," but witnesses said the 5 by 8 feet American flag on the stern may have been hard to see because of the ship's slow speed and the smoke and flames once the attack started.

Besides the flag, which was shot down during the attack, the report said, the Liberty's name was painted on her stern and Navy letters and numbers on her bow.

Also, foreign planes flew over the Liberty three times before the attack. Witnesses said they could not identify their nationality. The court heard no evidence on whether the planes identified the Liberty.

Liberty's position. "At no time before or after the attack did she approach closer than 13.6 nautical miles to land."

The Liberty's orders, the report said, were to sail along the Israeli and Egyptian coast at a distance of at least 12½ miles. The U.S. recognizes territorial limits of 3 miles while the United Arab Republic claims 12 and Israel 6.

"So long as such a neutral ship" as the Liberty stays impartial, the report said, "each belligerent has a duty to refrain from attacking her."

The Pentagon yesterday refused to state the basic mission of the Liberty, an eavesdropping ship. Earlier, Pentagon spokesman said the Liberty was coordinating the

evacuation of civilians from the war zone. But the electronics equipment on the ship, plus the Navy's failure to tell Israel she was going into the area, indicate the ship was listening in on the battle communications.

In addition to making those key points, the summation of the Navy inquiry plus the partial testimony portrayed a ship struggling against odds to stay afloat.

Commander William L. McGonagle, skipper of the Liberty, was cited for his heroic performance during the inquiry conducted in both London and Malta between June 11 and 17.

McGonagle said he arrived in his operating area off the Israeli-Egyptian coast June 8. At 2:50 a.m., Washington time, the first of the jets flew over her without exchanging signals.

Again at 4:56 a.m. and 5:26 a.m. (EST) jet and propeller planes flew over the Liberty. McGonagle said he could not make out their markings but took pictures of the planes in hopes of doing so later.

She was steaming at five knots, McGonagle said, when at 8 a.m. a plane at 7000 feet altitude started to fly parallel to the ship.

Explosion Heard

The next thing McGonagle heard was an explosion as a rocket from a second plane hit the port side of the ship, setting afire two 55-gallon gasoline drums two decks below the bridge.

Next a bomb hit the starboard side of the ship just aft of the bridge. McGonagle said he then ordered full speed ahead and radioed the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington that the Liberty was under attack "by unidentified jet aircraft and that immediate assistance was required."

It was most likely this radio message that caused the Sixth Fleet carriers to break out the bombs and ready its jets for battle. President Johnson in that interval used the hotline to tell Soviet leaders the planes from the Sixth Fleet were only going out to help the Liberty.

At least two jets raked the Liberty "in five or six attacks," according to the Pentagon. Three torpedo boats also attacked the Liberty. In another irony of the Liberty, one of the torpedo boats signaled to the ship after the attack: "Do you need assistance?"